

York County Courthouse Site Selection Commission

Meeting Minutes For Sept. 1, 2016

Present: Assoc. Justice Thomas E. Humphrey, Kathryn Slattery, D.A., Sheriff William L. King, Jr., Thomas Dunham, Senator Ron Collins, Senator Linda Valentino, Representative Robert A. Foley, Representative Anne-Marie Mastraccio, York County Commissioner Gary Sinden, Justice Wayne Douglas, Judge Jeffrey Moskowitz, Kathy Jones, Ken Marass, Esq., Amy Fairfield, Esq., John Webb, Esq. Chief Jo-Ann Putnam, Sherry Edwards, James T. Glessner, Mary Ann Lynch, Philip Johnston, Ted Scontras Dave Lavway

Next
meeting: Monday, September 19, 2016, 1:00 p.m., meet at parking lot of the York County Jail

The Chair welcomed the Commission members and the public to the meeting. The members introduced themselves to the public.

The Chair briefly reviewed the Commission's action at the first meeting to appoint of a subcommittee to find and review possible sites for the full Commission's consideration, and called upon Ted Glessner to re-introduced the subcommittee: Rep. Mastraccio, Sen. Valentino and Tom Dunham. The sub-committee reported that its members contacted local commercial developers and brokers and received information regarding 27 possible sites. Each member of the Commission was previously given a notebook containing all the information received about each site. The notebook included a "wind-shield evaluation worksheet" identifying each of the 27 sites, as well as one additional site received after the subcommittee met. Philip Johnston and Ted Scontras, who together provided "staff" assistance to the sub-committee, visited each site before meeting with the sub-committee. The sub-committee reviewed the documents with Phil Johnston and Ted Scontras and recommended 7 sites for closer consideration by the Commission. Sub-committee member Tom Dunham reported to the Commission that it was the consensus of the sub-committee to adopted that recommendation and, in turn, make that recommendation to the Commission.

Phil Johnston presented a fuller description of these seven to the Commission members, including a map of their location and a description of any unique characteristics. The seven sites are Property #2, Property #4, Property #10, Property #15, Property #16, Property #22, and Property #24, as identified on the windshield evaluation work sheet.

Senator Valentino said that an important consideration for the subcommittee was where people who use the courts come from. Another important consideration was whether the land was already owned by a unit of government (e.g., state, county, local and Maine Turnpike Authority). The sub-committee also reported that the Sanford sites were eliminated in favor of the Alfred "jail" site, and the Saco sites were eliminated because they were not centrally located.

The Commission expressed an interest in receiving the most recent court case filing numbers. Mary Ann Lynch agreed to obtain that information. Rep. Foley inquired whether all the Biddeford properties could be acquired by a warranty deed, and Senator Collins asked if jails are always located next to courthouses. Ted Glessner responded that in recent years, new courthouse construction has, in some cases, eliminated the proximity of courts and jails. And, in other cases, it has been the jails that have moved: Penobscot, Cumberland County and the Three Rivers Jail in the mid-coast are a few examples.

It was the unanimous agreement of the Commission that all of the members visit each of the seven sites as a group on September 19, 2016, the date of the next scheduled meeting. Ted Glessner said the Judicial Branch would hire a bus to bring the members as a group to the seven parcels. It was estimated that it would take no more than five hours. Members were encouraged to dress comfortably and wear good walking shoes.

The Chair thanked the sub-committee for their efforts and the meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.